

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger

September 30, 2020

"The Hampden-Sydney student will behave as a gentleman at all times and in all places."

Issue XCX.4

A Positive Perspective on the Plague of Pessimism

GIOVANNI NEEDHAM '21
STAFF WRITER

Before I continue, I want to say that COVID-19 has made everyone's life harder and stranger, but I hate seeing different news outlets constantly use COVID-19 as a way to incite fear or drill the negatives of this pandemic into all of our heads. It's been terrible.

The "normal" way of life we have been used to is gone, and that's been frustrating. There have been hundreds of thousands of people that have had to say goodbye to loved ones through a FaceTime call, as their loved one began to pass.

closer to normalcy, and when that magical day comes when closures are gone, an effective vaccine has not only been tried and tested but also distributed to all Americans without future side effects, when social distancing becomes a thing of the past, and when we can all finally get off of Zoom, we are going to appreciate our old days so much more.

In the meantime, we've got to keep chugging along. While we continue in these weird times, I want to shine a light on some of the positive things that we have seen and encountered in 2020 in the midst of COVID-19.

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Millions of people have lost jobs, collected unemployment checks, and stayed unemployed since their kids weren't allowed to go back to public schools. To say the least, COVID-19 has been rough for us. But, were powering through it.

With each day that passes, we are a step

First, many of us have been able to spend more time with family than ever before, which may have been a bad thing at times, but was ultimately a pleasant surprise.

When we all got sent home after

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Venable Quarantine: Being in the Bubble at Boys Camp

ZAC RICHMAN '22
STAFF WRITER

Quarantine. Venable dorm. Beats going home for sure, but what's life like in the quarantine dorms? Boredom. Prepackaged Moans. Nicotine withdrawal and airmail deliveries.

When asked about the 'magic number', the number of students with Coronavirus that shuts down the school, President Larry Stimpert confirmed that there was no magic number and that the school would stay open as long as there were students attending and teachers teaching.

This affirms his earlier statements at the beginning of the year for the Richmond Times-Dispatch in his editorial, The value of face-to-face instruction. He wrote,

Though there are significant challenges to operating even small colleges or universities safely in person during a pandemic, these institutions provide optimal learning environments that are critical for the development of the future leaders that



Photo courtesy of Michael Van Citters '22

our society needs. This is extremely comforting to hear, especially as other schools shut down after taking their students room and board just to send them home right after collecting the money. Staying at school requires steps to deal with students who get sick on campus to prevent potential outbreaks.

One of those measures is utilizing Venable as a quarantine dorm to provide students the opportunity to stay on campus to await testing results. Tommy Bishop '24, freshman who had tested positive and has since recovered shared that he was moved to the Women's guest house with

other positive cases to recover. He mentioned that they were able to hang out and interact since they all knew they had tested positive and that they made the most of their situation.

He said of online classes, "Online classes are different for the obvious reason that we are no longer able to communicate in person. At a school like Hampden-Sydney where most classes are discussion based this makes the learning experience more difficult. It is a valuable asset to have... but in person classes are far more effective." Bishop mentioned that the women's dorm was the only dorm he knew

of that had positive cases, he said that Virginia residents had the option to go home, but since he was an out of state student he felt that it wouldn't make much sense for him to return home.

Simon Mogren '22 had come into contact with students who may have been exposed, so he was able to leave to get food or go on walks outside of Venable as he was never in direct contact with someone who had Corona. He said, "we could hang with friends but it had to be socially distanced."

On the food dropped off outside

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Photo courtesy of Michael Van Citters '22

Common Fence: College Closes Residential Gates to Curb Crime, COVID-19 Cases

BRENNAN VAUGHT '21
STAFF WRITER

It is no secret that the roadblocks on campus have caused a stir. Many students see the roadblocks as restrictive to movement to and from campus.

In one interview, Christopher Thompson '21 stated that "there has definitely been an increase in traffic in the tight spot near Crawley Forum, specifically at the 'S' turn next to the Hampden units."

It appears that cutting off an entry/exit point on Five Forks Road forces students to bottleneck on the road that runs between Crawley Forum and the Hampden units.

In an interview with Police Chief Mark Fowler, he wanted to make it clear to all students that "[the roadblocks] are in no way meant to restrict any members of campus nor lock them in."

Fowler would later say in the interview that the use of the roadblocks "stems from the creation of entrances to campus" as we now have five in total. These entrances, Fowler says, "increases the amount of off campus people, that are not students, coming to campus. The roadblocks are in place to limit access of campus to those off campus people."

When asked about the effectiveness of the roadblocks thus far in the school year and the crime rate, Fowler said, "it's too early to have a

definitive say about effectiveness, but as of right now the crime rate is much lower than the department has seen in

Additional-ly, Fowler mentioned that the department recently received 10 new cameras and will be

"With limited manpower, the use of the roadblocks is enhancing our ability to ensure safety of the residents."

past years. With limited manpower, the use of the roadblocks is enhancing our ability to ensure safety of the residents."

installing them in areas such as entrances, exits, and parking lots.

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H-SC Disc Golf Club Spins into Action

DRAKE KALINOWSKI '23
STAFF WRITER

When one thinks of Hampden-Sydney sports, disc golf is probably not the first thing that comes to mind. Yet, for alumnus Andy Holloway, Class of 2020, that is pre-

Mr. Holloway to set up and organize the very first disc golf club in the history of the college. The club is open to new members, with only twenty dollars in dues providing membership and all the gear required to get any novice disc golfer fully equipped at no

The club is open to new members, with only twenty dollars in dues providing membership and all the gear required to get any novice disc golfer fully equipped at no extra charge.

cisely what he thinks about. Andy founded the disc golf club just this semester, and already the burgeoning sport can be enjoyed around campus. The club's faculty advisor is Director of High Adventure Scott Schmolesky, who worked with

extra charge. The club is also very welcoming to non-members who wish to check out the sport or merely want to play a course or two, and they count several members of the faculty among the number of

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The Hampden-Sydney Tiger

Founded 31 January 1920
by J. B. Wall '19

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Associate Editor
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Daniel Nivens '24
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Faculty Advisor
Dr. James Frusetta

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Disc Golf, cont'd

informal players. The goal of the club is to expose students in an open and inviting way to this enjoyable sport that has been gaining popularity around the country. The club meets Wednesdays and Fridays at four in the afternoon at the campus course, although they do have informal days of play throughout the week as well. The club also makes occasional trips to Longwood University, which has a course on a decommissioned ball golf course. The course at Hampden-Sydney is currently only nine holes, although Director Schmolesky and Mr. Holloway have plans to lengthen the course to eighteen holes by the end of the fall semester. The club has its first big event coming up in just a week, as they will be putting on a tournament.

Gates, cont'd

In an interview with another Alphabet resident, Marcellus Wiggins, he stated, "I can see the purpose of the roadblocks but I would like to see them unlocked during the day since traffic appears to be tighter on the road that runs between the Hampden units and Crawley Forum." Thompson echoed this point, adding, "a compromise, that I think would give us the best of both worlds, would be to lock the gates at night during the week and all the time during the weekends. This would allow students to exit and enter campus freely during the day, if needed, while also keeping them safe at night." While there is controversy surrounding the roadblocks, they are serving their purpose. By limiting the entrances, we have already seen a decrease in the crime rate on campus. While obviously not all people agree with the implementation of the roadblocks, a compromise such as described above could be a pivotal first step in making all parties satisfied.

Photo courtesy of Michael Van Citters '22

Christians' Corner: Questions for Christians, Answered by a Christian

De Veritas

ISAAC WHITFIELD '21
STAFF WRITER

What is true? How do we know a thing is true? Do these questions even matter? I posit that, yes, the questions do matter. It is the only question that matters, the question of truth. As a Christian, I will tell you that there is such a thing as truth and that the

fullness of truth can be found only in God. Christ tells us that he is "the way, the truth, and the life." These words are not simply a car bumper sticker slogan; they contain vast metaphysical truths; one of which being that without Christ, the fullness of truth cannot be reached. If the world is ordered in such a way which I think it is, then I ask you: to what is it ordered?

Making more of itself? If life is nothing more than chemical impulses in a series of organs until the death of said organs then this life is forfeit. What purpose does it serve? It certainly does not serve people. People were made for God and telling them otherwise is a lie. God, the first cause, or primary cause illumines his creation with a teleology, or an end goal.

St. Augustine calls this end goal "The City of God." That noble end in which the soul of a man is united fully and perfectly with the perfect good which is God. But St. Augustine also speaks of another city, the City of Man. This is a city in which man tries to put his end in the material. He thinks that this life is all that he has, and therefore rejects God. He makes the world an idol.

Everyone worships something, for we were made for worship. One must ask himself, what do I worship? Is it the pleasures of the flesh? Is it egoism? Do you worship yourself? These questions

ment; but why is it? I say because God created all people equal in his image, and that Christ was a sacrifice for every race and tongue to free all people of sin. If God says that whites and blacks

People were made for God, and telling them otherwise is a lie. God, the first cause, or primary cause, illumines his creation with a teleology, or an end goal.



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

PATRICK YOUNG '24
GUEST CARTOONIST

Pat the Tiger: Fish

NEWS

Crass Ceiling: Dark Secrets of the Maples Attic



Photo courtesy of Jonah Popp '21

JONAH POPP '21
OPINION EDITOR

Have you ever wondered what sorts of forgotten history our campus hides? A school that has been around for over two centuries is guaranteed to have some fascinating artifacts hidden around campus. Recently, I had a unique opportunity to investigate the attic of Maples. What I saw did not disappoint.

From eerie images spray painted on the walls to all sorts of old tests and papers from the 80's, the attic was a sight to behold. The pictures above and to the right cannot capture the strange and almost reverent feeling I had up in the attic. After the initial shock from the graffiti and dead birds, seeing the old tests and papers scattered all over the floor really did feel like I was witnessing a part of history which may not have been touched for decades. My next reaction was to start asking questions.

At any other institution I would immediately believe this to be the case, but I would think that Hampden-Sydney men would have more integrity than that. Perhaps the pa-

pers on the floor were a sign from something much more benign. Maybe the attic was used for storing old tests and papers for one of the professors and someone accidentally spilled them all over the floor. I could not, however, find any explanation for the disturbing images spray painted onto the walls. Those make me think that perhaps something more nefarious went on up there . . . there could have been some sort of ritual cursing the School's dining hall for the rest of eternity. I shudder at the thought. At this point in my article, I would like to make a shameless plug for the school's museum. Many such artifacts and interesting relics of Hampden-Sydney are kept there. We live on a campus rich with history, and this experience has made me wonder which other locations might be worth exploring. If you know of any, please do not hesitate to let me know!



Photo courtesy of Jonah Popp '21

QUID EST VERITAS?
Core Cultures Hosts Panel to Seek the Truth about Truth

BENJAMIN HAGER '23
STAFF WRITER

What is truth? Does "objective" truth exist? Does it matter whether objective truth exists if we are constantly refining what we believe to be "objectively" true? Can we trust modern science while knowing that some things we currently believe to be true may be disproven in the future? All these questions and more were answered at the truth panel event featuring Dr. Jennifer Vitale of the Psychology department, Dr. Patrick Wil-

son of the Philosophy department, and Dr. Michael Wolyniak of the Biology department. Each professor brought a unique perspective on truth, making the truth panel an interesting and nuanced discussion that was enjoyed by nearly 60 students and faculty members. If you missed the truth panel, keep reading for a brief summary. Vitale opened the discussion by explaining how "truth" is conceived of in the field of psychology. Like other sciences, psychology employs experiments and studies in an attempt to discover truths about

how the world works. In this respect, psychology seeks to derive truths about the world through experimentation. Additionally, Vitale explained that psychology, particularly behavioral psychology, is most interested in what individuals believe to be true. Individuals act based on beliefs they hold. Discovering why people do the things they do is at the heart of behavioral psychology, and what people believe is not always objectively true. "Modern psychology is the scientific study of human behavior. So in my discipline, generally speaking, we



Photo courtesy of Michael Van Citters '22

QUARANTINE, cont'd
of Venable, (shout out Sandy Cooke and Scott Schmolesky!) Mogren said, "[Food was dropped off] at like 8 o'clock, 1 in the afternoon and 5 o'clock in the evening." He then told me in no uncertain terms how he felt about the food, attested to personally by the many untouched bags of food that sit outside on the front stoop (see above) until they are thrown away and replaced by the next meal of the day. He said of she-

and other profoundly Hampden Sydney mon-keyshines that students got up to while awaiting release from their 2 week prison sentence. When asked about how students were being kept in the dorms, students replied that it was honor code based and that hall-mates or other brothers would bring them whatever they needed. Nate Jones '24 said about his four days in the bubble, "Students are just being told to stay

. . . gentlemen found intuitive, fire-safe and quarantine-friendly ways to enjoy their nicotine products.

nanigans pulled in the dorms, there were some trash cans tossed about and gentlemen found intuitive, fire-safe and quarantine-friendly ways to enjoy their nicotine products. Some students shared stories of their friends tossing cigarettes up to their poor sickly brothers in quarantine, others spread rumors of golf practice

in. It isn't overly comfortable. Meals came from the Moans, but we were able to order delivery and they would drop it off. No one had to pay for their food." When asked about the process of finding out that you needed to quarantine, he said, "I got a call from Dean Sabbatini. It was rather unorganized... because I had

Bortz Library Computers: Outdated but Safe

DANIEL NIVENS '24
GUEST WRITER

In the past, members of the Hampden-Sydney community have raised concerns about the security of the publically available computers in Bortz Library. Last week, I spoke to Jason Huskey, Manager of Client Services at the Library's Computing Center, about the security status of the computers located throughout the Library. The answer varies slightly depending on whether you are using a Mac, a Dell All-in-One (AIO), or a Windows terminal. For the Macs and AIOs, no student data is stored. Between each restart, these comput-

ers "clean their image," meaning no non-default data remains. According to Huskey, the Macs and AIOs are updated regularly to ensure the network security is up to date. When using the regular terminals, the Windows system links to the campus server which includes anti-virus software. These computers are not currently up to date so far as software is concerned (they run Windows Vista, about three versions behind). When asked about plans to update these computers, Huskey responded that "[they] are ironing out the details of a major overhaul of this system in the near future." Overall, Huskey rates the network secu-

rity of the library computer system as a 'B' due to the outdated software on the terminals. When using library computers, Huskey recommends that "Students should sign out of their accounts and close any browsers/programs they have used while at the terminal. Any files should be saved either in OneDrive or on a personal USB Drive." As long as students follow the best practice for using a public computer, the library computers are more than safe to use. According to Huskey, the Computing Center has not been made aware of any security breach in the past, and "the chances of a security incident are minimal."

wouldn't use a word like 'truth' the same way we wouldn't use words like 'evil' or 'good' because those are so broad, so abstract, that they move us away from where we like to be, the land of operationalization. We think about truth in terms of empirical research methodologies, whether they're experi-

mental or correlational, and we utilize them to test hypotheses. Those hypotheses are going to be relevant to the description of human behavior and elucidating the mechanisms that underlie human behavior. Truth then is really tied to whether the results of those studies represent the reality of

nature. Are they in fact reflecting what exists in reality? There is an assumption that there is an objective reality of nature out there, so did we appropriately test our hypotheses? Did we accept the results as reliable and as valid? So that becomes

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Photo courtesy of Creative Commons

OPINION

Chewing Out “the Moans”

PATRICK STRITE ‘24
GUEST WRITER

If you were to ask any current or past students of Hampden-Sydney College what their biggest complaints about the school are, you would receive two answers: the food and the dorms. They would be completely correct in asserting this as well. First, the food is consistently below average compared to other Virginia colleges and universities. Second, the dorms are old, shabby, and dilapidated. Rightfully so, President Stimpert has made it a priority to ad-

dress the issue of residence life on campus. Renovations on Cushing and the construction of the new apartments are great first steps on an issue that will likely take some time. Dorms should be cozy and inviting. After all, they are where students spend a majority of their time. Students shouldn't be reminded of the inside of a Costco warehouse every time they step into their rooms.

Students shouldn't be reminded of the inside of a Costco warehouse every time they step into their rooms.

served, yet to this day nothing has been done. Hampden-Sydney administration must address these issues if they want to become more appealing to prospective students. Dorm life and food are simply too important of factors to sweep under the rug. All students have to live in the dorms, and all students have to eat in the dining hall. Food and shelter are necessities, and to think that prospective students will look past that is mind boggling. If the administration wants to achieve its vision of making Hampden-Sydney more regionally competitive, he must direct his attention to what is holding the school back.

What Is Social Justice?

JACOB WHITNEY '21
NEWS EDITOR

I began researching this article with a clear idea of what I wanted to say about Social Justice Fridays, but the more I have read on the idea of “Social Justice” the more I have realized just how complicated the issue is. Social Justice is not a defined term, and as such it means different things to different people. For instance, I saw Social Justice as an idea used by antagonists to the status quo. Not that questioning authority is necessarily a bad thing, but the Social Justice movements I am most familiar with have harbored ideas that are antithetical to American values; most specifically they often seek to cancel and eliminate opposition through various social media weapons. For instance, ‘canceling’ is a way of restricting another’s 1st Amendment right, and it’s also used to inflict social and financial damage on the target. Consequences for speaking your opinion are natural; insulting a man’s mother may earn you swift physical retaliation. However, you are still able to spout

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Xbox and Playstation: A New Age of Gaming

MICHAEL HARRIS ‘22
STAFF WRITER

The new Xbox and Playstation have been the talk of the gaming community for over a year now. With both consoles being released in just under two months it has started another conversation on who has won the console wars for the next generation. Both have seemingly the same specs and support. There are some obvious differences on how each system operates. Both companies have done something extremely interesting though. There will be two different versions of

each console. One will be a disk version which has a bluray disk drive attached. Then there will be a digital only version. The digital only is virtually the same as the base design except there is no disk drive. This means that any hard copy game would not be able to be inserted. All games you wish to have must be downloaded. This is good for someone whose preference is downloaded games and also someone who wants the console at a lower price. For each console there is a 100\$ difference between the Base model and the digital only console. However, with all

these similarities there are also clear differences that give each game an edge on each other. Starting with the Xbox, there is the Xbox series X(Base model) that is \$499 and the Xbox series S that is \$299. The PS5 Bass model sells for \$499 however the digital version has a higher price of \$399 as compared to the Xbox series S. All 4 consoles have the same resolution. The Base model Xbox has 1TB of memory while the Ps5 base model and digital edition hold 825GB of memory. Unfortunately the Xbox series S only holds 512GB of memory. So if you're looking to hold as many games as possi-

ble without breaking the bank the digital edition PS5 may be the way to go. If you're looking for faster gaming speed the PS5 is also the way to go with a gaming speed of 5.5 GB per second as compared to the Xbox Series X with a speed of only 2.4 GB per second. When comparing the Base model Xbox and PS5 both seem to be relatively equal. However if you are looking for a cheaper option but do not want to sacrifice memory, speed, and resolution the digital edition PS5 is the way to go. However, that also depends on your comfort

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Taking Hampden-Sydney’s Purpose Seriously: The Aristotle Requirement

MICHAEL VAN CITTERS ‘22
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

During my time at Hampden-Sydney I have heard the phrase, “forming good men and good citizens” more times that I care to count. The phrase, which comes from the College’s mission statement, appears everywhere: it is impressed upon new students when they matriculate stamped onto the front of admissions literature, recited by those who take pride in attending a college like H-SC, pasted on water bottles at official College events, and printed in italics beneath the email signoffs of dozens of administrators and faculty members. Maybe the idea is that the phrase will be spoken or heard by students so many times that it will just get irremovably stuck inside their brains and enlighten them or perhaps morph into a conscience. But it doesn't seem likely. Although repetition of the phrase might inculcate the importance of goodness into our minds, it alone certainly does not have the cognitive power to make us better. If being good were that easy, most people would do it.

The unfortunate reality is that being good, or—more accurately—becoming good is hard. It isn't something we are born with, and it definitely isn't something that comes naturally. It takes both a rigorous self-awareness and an earnest desire to do the right thing, not to mention patience, discipline, and time. So how does one do it? How does one become a good man? How does one become a good citizen? Well, where does the mission statement come from? The Hampden-Sydney mission statement that we now know is derived from an advertisement taken out in the Virginia Gazette by Samuel Stanhope Smith, the College’s founder and first president. In the advertisement, Smith explains that Hampden-Sydney (then Hampden-Sidney) was to operate “on the most catholic Plan,” which is to say that students of all denomina-



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia

tions were welcome to enroll at the College and were free “to attend on any Mode of Worship which either Custom or Conscience has rendered most agreeable to them.” Later on in the advertisement (which reads more like an essay than a commercial ad), Smith reiterates his point by emphasizing his “Care to form good men and good Citizens, on the common and universal Principles of Morality, distinguished from the narrow Tenets which form the Complexion of any Sect.” Smith uses the phrase in an effort to distinguish Hampden-Sydney’s focus on the cultivation of character from a focus on sectarian proselytization, which (thank the Presbyterian God) is no longer a big concern in the Commonwealth (then Colony). Smith’s comments on character formation in the Gazette ad give us firm historical confirmation that Hampden-Sydney’s goal since even before the beginning has been to form good men and good citizens (and not to indoctrinate young men into a particular denomination), but the

advertisement does not provide any instruction on how to be good men and good citizens. Fortunately, the phrase has a more ultimate source than Smith’s letter. Have you ever wondered why the College’s mission statement makes a distinction between “good man” and “good citizen”? Aren’t the two one and the same thing? You’re not the first to wonder. So where does the phrase “good man and good citizen” really come from? Like most great ideas, we can trace it back to Aristotle. More specifically, we can trace it back to book 3, chapter 4 of the Politics, where Aristotle addresses the question of whether or not the good man and the good citizen are one and the same thing. Aristotle explains while it is the job of good men to cultivate a virtuous character, it is the job of good citizens to see to the preservation of the community. He concludes “that it is possible for a citizen to be excellent yet not possess the virtue in accordance with which he is an excellent man” (1276b 34–36). He concludes, in other words, that one can

be a good citizen without being a good man. Thus, for Aristotle, the cultivation of good men and the cultivation of the good citizen are not the same process. I will admit that to many, the fact that Aristotle coined the phrase “good man and good citizen” will be nothing more than a historically interesting tidbit, just like the fact about Smith’s advertisement. But much more important than that fact about Aristotle is the fact that he wrote whole treatises on how to become a good person. Aristotle explains in the *Nicomachean Ethics*, his work on moral philosophy, that the purpose of his lectures and writings “is not to know what virtue is, but to become good” (1103b 29–30). As a philosopher, Aristotle is not concerned with the ivory-tower investigation of some metaphysical entity that manifests itself in all good actions but rather with the cultivation of goodness within his readers and students. In his writings on ethics and politics, Aristotle is not “down in the weeds” like many philosophers are accused of being but rather trying to give “the big picture” of the good life. Aristotle’s philosophy should be required reading for all Hampden-Sydney students. Not only did Aristotle’s thinking have im-

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SPORTS

MEDIOCRE NBA JOURNALISM: THE AGE OF THE “HOT TAKE”

JACOB MYERS '21
STAFF WRITER

Anyone who follows sports closely knows one thing is more prevalent within sports media than ever before: hot takes. We see it frequently—when something unexpected happens in sports, talking-heads and fans go crazy alike, with completely irrational and biased opinions.

But why? Why has the reactionary, hot take become something so prevalent amongst fans and even professional writers?

For instance, professional LeBron James hater Skip Bayless recently wrote this: “This is LeBron’s easiest path to a ring: KD/Kyrie decided not to play. So LBJ got to beat a 35-39 Portland (and Dame got hurt), then the Rockets after Daniel House broke house rules, then the Nuggets instead of Kawhi’s Clippers, and now maybe the overachieving Heat. Meant to be.”

Now, there is some truth to this argument. The Blazers barely slid into the playoffs, the Rockets were not as good as everyone thought they would be, and the Nuggets were

a total surprise for going as far as they did.

However, whenever the Lakers take a loss, all we hear about is how the Lakers aren’t as good, or they aren’t as put together as we had originally thought. This sort of reactionary hot take has become so ingrained in sports writing that it’s almost impossible to take any form of journalism in the NBA seriously anymore.

Furthermore, former NBA Champ and current ESPN analyst Paul Pierce has had some of the worst hot takes out there. For instance, last year during the NBA’s Semi-conference finals, the Celtics went up in the first game of the series over the Milwaukee Bucks.

Paul Pierce said, “As a team, I don’t know where Milwaukee goes from here. I think it’s over... When I watched this today, if Giannis doesn’t have a monster game, and somebody besides him doesn’t step up, Boston is just going to out-talent them.”

Of course, Milwaukee ends up winning four straight games and closing out the series. Hot takes like these from, “professional”, analysts only spark views and clicks from fans.

And of course, when fans see professionals make claims like Pierce did, it only becomes more prevalent amongst fans to say the same thing or make their own biased, reactionary hot takes.

And one would think, “well, why would they have someone like Paul Pierce who negatively affects ESPN’s journalistic integrity?” It’s simple: that’s no longer a concern for large sports networks. Reactionary, biased takes gain more views and require almost zero effort, analysis, or evidence to prove. Its perfect for large sports networks that seek to generate as much ad-revenue as possible. And sadly, the same way of sports analysis has invaded the fans’ minds as well.

So next time you’re watching ESPN and a so-called analyst makes a controversial statement, think to yourself, “are they serious?” And if you’re asking yourself that question, they most likely aren’t. And the more clicks, views, and angry tweets they receive from fans, the more airtime they will receive. We’ve truly entered the age of mediocre NBA journalism and analysis.



Photo courtesy of Unsplash

Damaged.

MICHAEL HARRIS '22
STAFF WRITER

September 20th was a bad day for sports fans. Tons of big names went down with injuries. For lack of a better term, they were dropping like dominoes.

With the NFL only being active for a few weeks it was certainly to see some of our favorite names go down so early.

Two notable names were running back, Saouon Barkely

and defensive lineman, Nick Bosa. Both players suffered an ACL injury and are out for the season. This is bad news for fantasy football fans who drafted these two players.

Regardless of these injuries the NFL still had some exciting games in it. One of those games being the Seahawks and Patriots game. Despite falling short of the win, Patriots new QB Cam Newton played an extraordinary game with over 300 total yards. Cam Newton

should be a great inspiration to these injured players. He has shown that despite injury, a player can come back stronger.

There are no updates on Nick Bosa’s condition, but Saqun’s trainer has said that he has a 90% chance of recovering fully. We all know that after an ACL injury players are never really the same so this is good news.

An important thing to note is that these injuries won’t take away from the game. It is tragic but the NFL has proven to still be exciting and engaging.

Positive Perspective, cont'd

Spring Break, I honestly thought I would be back in my Blake, taking classes in person within two or three weeks. I was wrong. Instead, I spent the rest of our Spring Semester at home, and then, I was home all summer, interning online. I have never spent that much time with just my family. At first, I was really dreading it.

Don’t get me wrong; I love my family, but I thought I was going to want to leave home so quickly. Once again, I was wrong. I got to bond with my family in a way that I never did before.

I was doing all kinds of wood-working, house projects, and outdoor yard projects like building a fence for the backyard.

I didn’t think I was going to have so much fun with my hands, building all sorts of things out of wood, and doing it with my family only made it better.

Sitting around a table and enjoying a good, home cooked meal has never been so rewarding. Just getting to know each one of my family members on a closer level was such an awesome time, and I really wasn’t expecting it.

So, I’ve got to imagine that there are bunch of guys here at Sydney who had similar experiences. I have missed The Hill, but My Home was a great place to be, and I’m looking forward to seeing my family soon.

Family was great, but I also had a ton of time to do some self-reflection, which can be kind of hard for us Sydney guys since many of us are social creatures, finding themselves at the latest social event.

But, this summer, I was pretty limited to who I saw. Like I said, I spent a lot of time with my family, but I spent the most time by myself than I ever have before. For me, that’s something pretty rare. If you know me, you know that I usually surround myself by a few people all time, talking my life away.

I don’t know anyone that can shut

me up. So, being alone pushed me in a way where I was free of a lot of distractions. I got to thinking, and I really found who I am. I started doing things that I always wanted to do, but I never had the guts to actually get going.

I can actually play a few songs on guitar now, and I got it for Christmas five years ago. I found the excitement in setting daily goals, achieving them, and enjoying the rewards. I started to work on myself, made myself stronger mentally, and I really see the benefits now.

I know so many of my friends that really used this opportunity to reflect and focus in on what’s important to them.

I know guys who got into investing, and they saw huge gains, pushing them further into ear-

because we weren’t going to get those things this year. We came back, and we came back to see each other, even if our faces are hidden by cloth, and our bodies are separated by at least two-yard sticks.

We came back to give back to this place. Without us, there is no Hampden-Sydney College. There is no tradition. There is no Good Men. There is no Good citizen.

Even with the first pandemic in over 100 years, we still came back, and I am so happy I am back. I am a senior now, and while I’ve seen the change in this school from my first day of freshman year, to where I stand now, I am grateful to still be here today.

To the freshman that don’t know what this school is like when a literal pandemic is rolling through, I’m elated that y’all continued to take

NEWS: The Trees Are Falling Down, Falling Down...



JACOB WHITNEY '21
NEWS EDITOR

A tree fell during the night of the September 17, crushing the roof of the truck it fell on and denting the hood of a nearby car. No students were hurt.

Trees falling during storms is nothing

Deifel’s car was destroyed by a fallen tree from yet another hurricane.

Deifel talks about his experiences with hurricanes and fallen trees with relish, almost as battle scars of his time here. He fondly recalled one time when, sheltering from a storm in the library, a large tree fell in

Photo courtesy of Jacob Whitney '21

granted to the people trapped in the library.

The most recently fallen tree, a maple tree, fell in the Carpenter Parking Lot at the very bottom of the hill. It dented the hood of a grey Ford Focus SE, but most of the weight lay on a nearby white Silverado Chevrolet, the roof of which was caved in.

Sometime late the night the tree fell, the campus police were notified of the accident. They in turn informed John Prengaman, head of Buildings and Grounds (B&G) on H-SC’s campus. Closing in on midnight, Prengaman immediately called Arbor Pro of Virginia LLC to come to H-SC first thing in the morning to remove the tree.

Just after 8:30am on Friday the 18th, the tree removal company showed up and got to work. Such a large tree could not merely be picked up and carried away, even with

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Trees falling during storms is nothing new on our campus, and neither is the fact that they are strangely drawn to cars.

ing new on our campus, and neither is the fact that they are strangely drawn to cars.

Two years ago, during a different passing hurricane, a large branch fell on and totaled student Alexander Washington '21’s Nissan. In that same year, during a different hurricane, Chemistry Professor Dr. Nicholas

front of the library doors and prevented anyone from leaving. Before the storm even had a chance to pass, a strange man arrived with a chainsaw and began to immediately dismantle the tree.

Deifel never did learn his name but calls him “Chainsaw Jesus” in tribute to the great deed that mysterious savior

the chance on an all-male school in Farmville, Virginia, as it finds its way through COVID-19.

COVID-19 has turned everything upside down. We continue to see its effects every day, and Venable has never been so confused. In a time when negativity grabs headlines and carries conversation, I want us to remember the good things that came from this.

We’ve all faced our own adversity, and now, we can add a pandemic to the list. Just know that when our Spring Semester comes back around, we’re going to show these freshmen what this school is all about. In the meantime, thank your friends and family that stayed close to you during the spring and the summer, be happy if you were able to learn a thing or two about yourself, and know that this place will stand through a pandemic or a civil war.

Without us, there is no Hampden-Sydney College. There is no tradition. There is no Good Men. There is no Good Citizen.

ly financial success.

I know people that decided that sitting around wasn’t enough, so they chose this time to make a diet, work out, and now they are in the best shape of their life.

I know people that used this time to just relax after busting their behinds day after day, finding new hobbies and happiness within themselves.

I know I’m not the only one that benefited from some alone time, finding new ways to push myself, and I’m honestly ecstatic that people were able to turn a crappy situation into a happy lifestyle.

Lastly, one of the best things that we can look at in the midst of one of the worst moments of the 21st century is how much we have come together, not only as a country, but also as a School. We all miss The Circle, Tailgates, The Macon Game, but when move in day came, we didn’t say that we didn’t want to come back just

THE BACK PAGE

Truth, cont'd

our language of truth, with the understanding that tomorrow we could test a different hypothesis and find out that our earlier result was not replicable.”

Wilson emphasized two points: first, before talking with someone about truth or any other ambiguous topic, always define your terms. Until you define the terms of your discussion, anything you say might as well be meaningless. It is easy to get into a pointless argument when no one bothers to explain what they really mean when they use words like “truth” or “equal” or “access”.

The second thing Wilson emphasized was that if someone refuses to define his or her terms, the proper response is “Some weather we’ve been having,” Wilson explained, “There’s no point in having any further conversation about the topic if the terms aren’t defined clearly. You might as well be talking about the weather. ‘Some weather we’ve been having’ is the proper response to someone who doesn’t nail down their terms. If I’m using the word ‘equal’ in one sense and Dr. Vogel is using the word ‘equal’ in a different sense, we’re not on common ground and we might as well get that straight before we even have a conversation.”

Wilson also mentioned a popular conception of truth in philosophy known as the correspondence theory of truth. When using this theory, someone describes the world as if there is an objective truth that exists independently of our belief and perception of the world.

“There is a correspondence between what I’m saying, thinking or believing and what the world is really like. That means what the world is like independently of what I think or want to be

true. Objective is the opposite of subjective. If I say that it is objectively true that torturing a human being for any reason whatsoever, what I mean is that the world... is such that objectively speaking, that statement corresponds to the way the world is. It doesn’t matter who thinks it, it doesn’t matter if everyone thinks it, no one thinks it, 50% think it, [that’s] irrelevant. It doesn’t matter if there even are human beings. It’s the way the universe is.”

Wolyniak of the biology department emphasized the idea of “scientific” theories. Because science is constantly progressing and changing, we know that what we currently believe to be “scientifically true” might not be as such. Entire fields of science that were widely believed to be true have been proven to be totally false, such as phrenology, or the study of the shape of people’s skulls to interpret things about their personality and character.

“I wrote down ‘truth’ as that which is

simply supported by empirical evidence. I appreciate what Dr. Vitale said about not actually using that term in our disciplines. Dr. Wilson talked a lot about theories, and we, in biology, certainly have our own theories, most famously the theory of evolution. Evidence, I wrote down as being what is learned from testing or hypothesis. To a certain extent, you could exchange ‘belief’ for ‘hypothesis’. The grass is green, therefore there must be a chemical in the grass that allows it to be so, and I could do a test to figure that out. I could believe that the grass is green [because of a chemical]. I won’t go so far to say that ‘belief’ and ‘hypothesis’ are interchangeable, but there’s certainly an overlap there... I’d like to highlight... the idea in natural science that we think of theories, but don’t shortchange that word ‘theory’; just because we’re not willing to say ‘truth’ does not mean we don’t fervently believe, based on evidence, based on ob-

servations and repeated testing, that something is in fact true. What we are leaving ourselves open for there... is what happens when additional evidence comes about. We accept the fact that truth tends not to be static.”

One student, Taylor McGee ‘23, asked a poignant question about whether we can trust current science even though we also know that such things could be proven false in the future. Ultimately, the professors said, it comes down to empirical evidence, which varies between fields. Until we have empirical evidence that supports the falsity of theories that have been repeatedly replicated, we might as well act as though they are true.

At the end of the day, the meaning of truth depends on how it is defined, be it objective truth, belief, or simply the best available evidence. Remember, always define your terms. If you do not, you might as well be talking about the weather.

Video Games, cont'd

level with PS5 and Xbox. Putting performance aside, Both of these consoles will be responsible for holding up the standard of gaming that we know today and beyond.

While both consoles share the same games on most accounts, backwards capability and game exclusives are very important in deciding which console to get. The Xbox series S and X will be backwards compatible with Xbox one, Xbox 360, and original Xbox games. So if you have an Old Xbox console and want an upgrade without losing your games this is the console for you. Both PS5 models will support 99% of Ps4 games however it will not be backwards compatible with any game spast that. That’s bad news for old head gamers, however it does bode well because that puts more pressure on playstation to make and release better new gen games.

As for game exclusives the Xbox does not have any for the new console as of yet. The PS5 has the new Spiderman exclusive featuring Miles Morales. This game has been greatly anticipated ever since the PS4 spiderman game that won 2018 game of the year was released. The quality, speed, and overall action of the game is extraordinary.

With the PS5’s release one can buy the Ultimate edition Miles Morales game. This comes with the new spiderman game as well as the 2018 Spiderman game remastered. But, if you do not want to buy the PS5 right away do not worry.

Sony is also releasing a PS4 version of this game as well, however it will not come with the remastered 2018 version. This exclusive really gives playstation an edge over it competition but with the Xbox backwards capability it gives Xbox fans a chance to upgrade without losing beloved games.

Even with all of these statistics and facts layed out, it all comes down to the consumer to decide what is best for them. Either way, it is an exciting time for gamers everywhere.

Aristotle, cont'd

measurable influence on the way people behaved for over two-thousand years (and continue to behave today), his ethical writings strike at the very heart of what it means to be a Hampden-Sydney student.

Certain majors like Government and Philosophy require classes in which they read Aristotle, but the majority of H-SC students will never experience the intrigue—nay, the sheer joy of reading about friendship, virtue, and the cultivation of human excellence.

I’m not proposing that the College require students to read Aristotle’s denser-than-soap *Metaphysics* or his outdated writings on biology. I am proposing, however, that the College consider adding a requirement to the Core Curriculum requiring that all students take at least one course in which they read either the *Politics* or the *Nicomachean Ethics*.

The truth is, *Nicomachean Ethics* might as well be trans-



lated into English as *Being a Good Man for Dummies*; the *Politics* could just as easily be called *Cliffs Notes: Good Citizenship*. I do not mean to suggest that

tradition more broadly—is a distinctly Aristotelian establishment. If you could travel back in time to tell Aristotle that there was an institution dedicated explicitly to the formation of good men and good citizens (i.e., H-SC), he would be overjoyed, ecstatic that his life’s work amounted to something. If you then told him that that institution did not require its students to read his books, he would be confused.

What better way to educate students about being “good men and good citizens” than by reading the

den-Sydney’s mission of “forming good men and good citizens in an atmosphere of sound learning.” So much for our discussion of virtue and good citizenship.

Social Justice, cont'd

anyone who is swayed by the misleading title.

However, any actual justice that has been enacted in the name of Social Justice is praise-worthy and ought to be continued. Today, I do not believe Social Justice is used in a positive way, nor does it fit in with the idea of the Office of Equity and Inclusion, as its general purpose is as a device to exclude others. Social Justice is not inherently bad, but it can easily be used to hinder progress instead of promote it.

Should Social Justice Fridays continue, I hope they do so as promoted and do not give into Cancel-Culture. I hope they remain as events for students to talk about those tough topics that continue to strain American life today.

What better way to educate students about being “good men and good citizens” than by reading the very book in which the phrase is coined?

Aristotle’s works are easy to read—they are not. Rather, I mean to say that the reason they exist is the same reason that Hampden-Sydney exists: to form good men and good citizens.

Hampden-Sydney—and the liberal arts

very book in which the phrase is coined? Aristotle’s ethics and politics lie at the core of who we are, and adopting an Aristotle requirement to the Core Curriculum would be a tangible way to advance Hamp-



The Hampden-Sydney Tiger Staff, circa 1978. Courtesy: the Kaleidoscope

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